



# ACTION AGENDA

# 2020



Catskill Mountainkeeper's *mission* is to protect our region's wild lands and natural resources, support smart development to sustainably grow our economy, nurture healthy communities, and accelerate the transition to a 100% clean energy future in New York and beyond.

Our *vision* is a Catskill Region of healthy, thriving, diverse, and sustainable communities where wild places are conserved for people and nature.

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### Keep in touch!

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## Protect Pollinators



There is a growing scientific consensus that pesticides known as neonicotinoids are killing birds, bees, and other pollinators while threatening human health. Further, neonics, as they're known, are impacting aquatic plants, reducing fish populations, and contaminating drinking water. The Centers for Disease Control found that over half of the U.S population has been exposed to neonics.

The European Union already banned many neonics to help protect people and pollinators. It's our turn now.

Mountainkeeper calls on the legislature to **pass A.7639-A/S.5816**, imposing a five year moratorium on neonics and directing the Department of Environmental Conservation to report on what New York can do to protect pollinators and people from these toxic pesticides.

## Pass the Environmental Bond Act



In his FY 2021 Executive Budget, Governor Cuomo proposed a \$3 billion "**Restore Mother Nature Bond Act**" to fund projects to protect and restore wetlands, reduce flood risk, preserve and restore wildlife habitat, improve wastewater infrastructure and invest in green infrastructure, support environmentally friendly farming practices, protect open space, and invest in renewable energy projects.

Projects like these will support the Catskill Park and Catskills communities, and we call on the legislature to **approve a bond act** and send the measure to a popular vote in November.

The climate crisis poses a huge threat to our region, so investing in both natural and renewable energy solutions is critically important and will allow us to combat the looming threats head-on.

## Fund Climate Justice & Support Climate Solutions



New York's groundbreaking Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) commits our state to deep greenhouse gas emissions reductions and renewable energy mandates, while seeking to uplift marginalized communities after decades of environmental racism.

To achieve these goals, New York needs to jumpstart investment in climate solutions. We are calling for a budget that includes **\$1 billion for renewable energy, electrifying the transportation system, and climate justice**. This type of investment will create jobs and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

In Ulster and Sullivan Counties, Mountainkeeper is helping homeowners cut emissions, weatherize, and **switch to clean heating and cooling** for their buildings through our **HeatSmart campaigns**.

## Permanently Ban Fracking & Fracking Waste



Catskill Mountainkeeper supports Governor Cuomo's **proposed ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking."** Fracking is used to drill gas and oil wells via a pressurized combination of water and chemicals that fractures rock beneath the ground and releases methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas. Fracking contaminates groundwater, poisons communities, and should be permanently banned in New York.

Fracking chemicals and fluids, which include carcinogens and toxins, are classified as hazardous materials. But due to federal and state exemptions, spent fluids are less heavily regulated. Mountainkeeper calls on the legislature to pass, and the governor to sign **A.2655/S.3392**, a bill to close the dangerous hazardous waste loophole.

## Expand & Support Regenerative Agriculture



Many conventional agricultural practices create imbalances in soil, stripping it of some nutrients while overloading it with others, causing water quality issues and reducing soil's ability to store carbon. Regenerative Agriculture describes those practices that help to rebuild soil's organic matter and restore degraded soil biodiversity – resulting in both carbon drawdown and water quality improvements.

Mountainkeeper calls on New York State to **adopt stronger soil health-related policy and regenerative agriculture practices on farms**. Such policies will benefit the soil itself while enhancing farms' resilience to extreme weather, improving farm viability, enriching the nutrient density of the crops produced, and sequestering carbon on, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from, farmland.

## Support the Catskill Region



The New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) invests in projects that conserve critical resources for future generations while combating climate change, creating jobs, and making our communities more resilient. Catskill Mountainkeeper calls on New York State to **invest \$350 million in the EPF this year**.

Further, Mountainkeeper calls on New York to invest in the Catskills. The park sees more than 1.7 million travelers each year, and faces the challenge of "hot spots," or places which receive a disproportionate number of visitors. To balance visitors' needs as well as those of the park, we're calling for **\$10 million in stewardship funding** to support Catskill Park education, trail and campground improvements, and infrastructure maintenance.